

Kansas SAFE KIDS Celebrates Child Passenger Safety Awareness Week

Kansas SAFE KIDS partnered with Governor Sebelius, Kansas Department of Transportation, Kansas Highway Patrol and Kansas Motor Carriers Association to sponsor a media event in Topeka on February 9 to kick off Child Passenger Safety Awareness Week (Feb 8-14).

Participants emphasized the need to make parents more aware of the need for children ages 4-8 to use belt-positioning booster seats when riding in motor vehicles. Joining in the event were Traci Meyer and her 4-year-old daughter, Blair Meyer (granddaughter of Ilene Meyer, BCYF) who was saved by her booster seat last May. During the press conference, Kansas SAFE KIDS released findings from a national report which identified Kansas as among half of the states in the country whose child occupant protection laws leave many children unprotected while riding in motor vehicles.

Children, ages 4-8, are allowed under current Kansas law to be buckled in an adult safety belt. It is recommended children this age should be in a booster seat. Other gaps include inadequate penalties and failure to cover children over the age of 13. The Coalition and its partners are working with state legislators and the Governor to close these gaps so that parents can look to the law for guidance in the safest way to restrain their children in motor vehicles. For more information on the national report, go to www.safekids.org.



Blair Meyer, Emporia, demonstrates correct booster seat usage to Governor Sebelius during Child Passenger Safety Awareness Week Media Event held February 9, 2004.